



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***ARIZONA BILLS – AGAIN – FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FAILURE
Submits \$501 million invoice for SCAAP***

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano today has sent another invoice to the federal government, calling upon it to reimburse the more than \$501 million it owes the state of Arizona for incarcerating criminal aliens under the State Criminal Alien Assistance Plan (SCAAP).

Under the SCAAP law, the federal government is required to reimburse states that must incarcerate illegal immigrants who have violated state laws. Over the last several years, the federal government has cut SCAAP funds, reimbursing only pennies on the dollar.

In a letter to U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey, the Governor pointed out that given Arizona's current financial situation, reimbursement is critical.

She wrote:

“By refusing to fully reimburse Arizona for its SCAAP costs, the federal government has unfairly forced Arizona to bear the federal government's costs arising from its failure to adequately secure its borders. This comes at a time of severe financial hardship for Arizonans, who were disproportionately affected by the housing market downturn and credit market tightening... Arizona can no longer afford to continue this subsidization at the cost of necessary public safety, education and health services desperately needed by our citizens.”

The Governor has been invoicing the federal government for SCAAP costs since October 2004. At a briefing with media this morning, the Governor pointed out that if the federal government kept its end of the bargain, and paid its SCAAP bill, Arizona would be far better positioned to meet an expected shortfall in revenue.

Copies of the Governor's letter and invoice are attached.

For more information about the Office of the Governor, please visit www.azgovernor.gov.